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they pray to be testamentarily named. This craze of collecting, public and private, always the sign of an age that is not first rate artistically, cannot be better described than it is by Clive Bell when he says: "A cultivated person is one on whom art has not impressed itself, but on whom it has been impressed—one who has not been overwhelmed by the significance of art, but who knows that the nicest people have a peculiar regard for it." It is this that is being done to us as a people, and it is so the shops, museums and colleges hope to make us a cultivated people. And the support of these is the woman who requires luxuries and the man who fights to get them for her.

We have just fought a great war against Germany and been successful in our part, a small one beside that of Britain and France. The letting of blood is over, but the economic war is just beginning and in that war we, as the richest people on earth, shall take the largest part. We are, because the richest, the most luxurious. Few will deny this. A line in Juvenal's sixth Satire is at least worth thinking about: "Now we suffer the evils of long peace; luxury, more deadly than war, broods over us and avenges a conquered world." To those who object that we are just out of war, it is useless to reply, because they can never be made to realize the difference between tasting war as the United States did, and living on or through it for years as the Allied nations did.

ALFRED MANSFIELD BROOKS.

Bloomington, Indiana.

FOSSILS AND GERMS IN IGNEOUS ROCKS

SIR:

You owe your readers both an explanation and an apology for the publication in your April issue of an article by W. H. Ballou on *The Multiple Origin of Man*. Without attempting to discuss the entire article or committing myself at all on the subject of evolution, I will call your attention to the following on page 553, which is utterly misleading both in statement and interpretation:

The great litholite which fell near Knyahinya, Hungary, proved a veritable mine of fossil forms. Hahn tabulated them as organic sponges, corals, crinoids, etc., small, but perfect in internal and external structure. He thus established the universality of life in space. The inference is, that living forms could arrive as well as fossil types.

As a matter of fact a German by the name of Hahn did in 1880 publish a work entitled *Die Meteorite (Chondrite) und Ihre Organismen*. He figured numerous microscopic forms which he imagined to represent corals, crinoids, etc. In this he was almost immediately shown to be utterly wrong. The forms described were peculiar crystallizations of silicate minerals resulting from the hasty cooling of a molten magma in which organic life could not possibly have existed. From that day to this, no worker with more than a rudimentary knowledge of the subject has accepted Hahn's views, and fur-

ther no meteorite has yielded up to date any certain indication of animal or vegetable remains.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE P. MERRILL.

(Head Curator of Geology

U. S. National Museum)

Washington, D. C.

[We have no objection to repudiation of Herr Hahn. Within the last few months, however, Dr. Galippe, the distinguished laureate of the French Academy of Science and the Academy of Medicine, in conjunction with his colleague Dr. Soufflaud, communicated to the Academy of Sciences the results of experiments which he considered to be convincing proof of the existence not merely of fossil forms but of actually vital germs of life in meteorites, igneous rocks, quartz, granite and basalt, and volcanic lava, which had been subjected to temperatures of from 400 to 3920 deg. Fahr. Dr. Galippe held that at the origin of the terrestrial crust the micro-organisms of the waters were mingled with sediments and then, under enormous pressures, became embodied in crystallized rocks; that they passed through these changes without losing their vitality or their capability of revivification; and that it is possible now to demineralize them and restore them to activity and reproductive potency.—EDITOR.]

NATIONAL CAPITAL AND INCOME

SIR:

Cannot the nation's business be considered in the light of a unit and the causes of existing effects be ascertained therein? If it may be thus considered, our resources may be stated as follows:

Real Value	\$245,000,000,000
Capital Resources	205,000,000,000
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Total	\$450,000,000,000

The Statistical Abstract for 1920 shows income from capital resources to be \$36,000,000,000, which is six and one-half per cent on capital invested, or capital resources and real value liquidated. However, \$36,000,000,000 of income from total capital resources and real value figure gives us but one-twelfth of one per cent per annum.

This being the absolute truth of the income figures of the United States, what is to be done to increase our income figures?

Further to inflate capital resources is to reduce income even more and increase real value figure, but will not realize cash net income increase.

Thus we see the utter futility of our government and business borrowing methods. By such methods liquidations can only be accomplished by